

Location of Confirmed Entanglement Cases

In 2017, large whale entanglements were reported and confirmed in the waters of 13 states, along all U.S. coasts except within the Gulf of Mexico. More than half of all confirmed entanglements occurred in two states—32.9 percent in California waters (n=25) and 26.6 percent in Massachusetts waters (n=20). In California, a large number of entangled humpback whales were found in Monterey Bay (n=7) and most of the entangled gray whales were found in the lower half of the Southern California Bight (n=8). A high number of humpback whale entanglements were confirmed off the coast of the Main Hawaiian Islands (n=7), accounting for 14.3 percent of all humpback whale entanglements and 9.2 percent of all entanglements for all species combined. The entanglements off the coast of Massachusetts were concentrated along Cape Cod and Stellwagen Bank, and primarily involved humpback whales (n=16) (Figure 2).



An entangled humpback whale off of San Diego, CA. Documented large whale entanglements often involve the tail and flukes. Photo taken under Permit No. 18786. Credit: Keith Yip

Figure 2: The locations of all confirmed entanglement sightings in 2017.

Areas with significant numbers of whale entanglements include Massachusetts, California, and Hawaii.

